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***NEWS From:***

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**Congressman Mike Honda**

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FIFTEENTH DISTRICT - CALIFORNIA

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**Honda Secures Nearly \$19 Million in FY05 Earmarks**  
***Federal Monies for Silicon Valley Despite Budget Constraints***

WASHINGTON, DC — **U.S. Rep. Mike Honda** (D-San José) today announced nearly \$19 million in additional federal funding for hometown projects in Silicon Valley, including a critical \$2.5 million earmark for preliminary engineering on the extension of the Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) system to Santa Clara County and \$1.1 million for perchlorate groundwater clean-up.

The federal earmarks were included in the Omnibus Appropriations Act for fiscal year 2005, a \$388 billion spending bill funding 13 government departments and dozens of domestic agencies. Honda voted in favor of the funding bill, which passed the House Nov. 20 by a vote of 344 to 51. Later in the evening, the Senate gave its approval, 65 to 30.

“It was a hard fight getting Silicon Valley the federal dollars it deserves, especially at a time of soaring budget deficits and the rising costs of war and counterterrorism programs,” Honda said. “Despite the slightest increase in domestic spending since the late 1990s, several critical projects in Silicon Valley will get the financial investment they need.”

Congressman Honda scored a major legislative win for the BART-to-San Jose project by securing a **\$2.5 million earmark** from the Federal Transit Administration’s “New Starts” account. With 78 percent of the project’s total funding already committed from state and local resources, the federal earmark was critical to the effort of connecting BART with highly frequented Santa Clara County destinations.

Among other appropriations earmarks from the Transportation and Treasury portion of the Omnibus spending bill, Rep. Honda secured **\$1 million** for safety improvements to State Route 152, a Santa Clara County priority project that will upgrade existing access from the Gilroy Foods and WTI trucking facilities. Honda also landed a **\$750,000 earmark** for the Valley Transit Authority’s Bus Signal Priority Project, which will improve bus operating speeds and on-time performance along various high-volume transit corridors in Santa Clara County.

Rep. Honda also worked on a bipartisan basis to direct funds to the region, coordinating with Rep. Richard Pombo (R-Stockton) to secure **\$1.1 million** for the Santa Clara Valley Water District for perchlorate groundwater clean-up.

The following are other Silicon Valley projects for which Rep. Honda secured funding in the FY05

Omnibus appropriations bill:

- **\$9.66 million** for the Santa Clara Valley Water District for various water projects (detailed below);
  - **\$1.75 million** for continued construction of the San Jose Area Water Reclamation and Reuse Program;
  - **\$72,750** for the Maple Leaf Shopping District Rehabilitation under the EDI Account;
  - **\$325,000** for planning and \$125,000 for construction on the Llagas Creek project;
  - **\$100,000** for the San Francisquito Creek Watershed Project to conduct a Feasibility Study of the watershed;
  - **\$325,000** for the initiation of the South San Francisco Bay Shoreline Feasibility Study;
  - **\$300,000** within the Corps of Engineers' Section 206 Program for the Thompson Creek Restoration Project to enhance water quality and flood protection;
  - **\$75,000** for the Upper Guadalupe River Project; and
  - **\$273,000** for the Upper Penitencia Creek Flood Protection Project to continue the project's Feasibility Study;
- **\$300,000** for the Community Health Partnership Community Mammography Access Program (CMAP) under the CDC Account; and
- **\$340,000** for House on the Hill under the HRSA Account.

“The bill has flaws, and I maintain reservations about provisions that limit review of timber sales in Alaska and extend grazing permits without requiring environmental reviews,” Honda stated. “But we managed to secure much-needed funds for Silicon Valley projects, a notable victory in this time of severe budgetary constraints.”